

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 39 are pending. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

#### **§ 102 Rejections**

Claims 1-5, 7-22 and 29-39 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,780,047 (Kamiya). The Examiner recites Kamiya to disclose “the support layer of instant claim 1 (see col. 10, line 44)”. Applicants respectfully disagree.

At the recited passage, Kamiya discloses “a highly peelable sheet” to which the adhesive sheet is applied. Once the adhesive sheet is dried, the water-soluble protective material is applied to the adhesive sheet. The highly peelable sheet is “employed in order to protect the adhesive sheet . . .” and thus, must be attached to the adhesive sheet, not the protective material. See col. 10, lines 44-45. Kamiya fails to disclose any construction of a device in which a support layer is attached to a carrier on the surface opposite the adhesive layer, i.e. a construction of 1) support layer, 2) carrier, and 3) adhesive.

For purposes of structural comparison, Kamiya discloses a construction with the adhesive sheet sandwiched between the highly peelable sheet and the water-soluble protective material. In contrast, Applicants disclose the carrier sandwiched between the adhesive and the support layer.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-22 and 29-39 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamiya has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

#### **§ 103 Rejections**

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,780,047 (“Kamiya”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,028,435 (“Katz”). The Examiner acknowledges that Kamiya fails to teach proteins and carbohydrates but relies on Katz for that disclosure. As discussed above, Kamiya at a minimum fails to disclose any construction of a device in which a support layer is attached to a carrier on the surface opposite the adhesive layer. Katz further fails to cure the deficiencies of Kamiya because Katz fails to teach or disclose a cold-water soluble carrier layer, cold-water soluble adhesive layer, and a support layer. Thus,

the combination of Kamiya and Katz fails to teach all elements of the present invention. Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Based on the above, the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamiya in view of Katz has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Examination and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

September 9, 2008

Date

By:           /Nancy M. Lambert/

Nancy M. Lambert, Reg. No.: 44,856

Telephone No.: 651-733-2180

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833